

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)	4:10CR3089
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	
v.)	MEMORANDUM
)	AND ORDER
REGINA LYNN LEONARD,)	
)	
Defendant.)	

This matter is before the court on the defendant's notice of appeal. (Filing [159](#).) The pro se notice of appeal is filed with reference to the judgment entered on August 6, 2013 (filing [158](#)), which denied the defendant's motion to vacate pursuant to [28 U.S.C. § 2255](#).

Before the defendant's appeal can proceed, a certificate of appealability must issue. See [Fed. R. App. P. 22\(b\)](#). A certificate of appealability may issue "only if the applicant has made a substantial showing of the denial of a constitutional right." [28 U.S.C. § 2253\(c\)\(2\)](#). When a district court has rejected a constitutional claim on the merits in the course of denying a § 2255 motion, "[t]he petitioner must demonstrate that reasonable jurists would find the district court's assessment of the constitutional claims debatable or wrong" in order to meet the standard contained in § 2253(c). [Slack v. McDaniel, 529 U.S. 473, 484 \(2000\)](#). In contrast, when a district court denies a § 2255 motion on procedural grounds without reaching the applicant's underlying constitutional claims on the merits, a certificate of appealability should issue under § 2253(c) when "the prisoner shows, at least, that jurists of reason would find it debatable whether the petition states a valid claim of the denial of a constitutional right and that jurists of reason would find it debatable whether the district court was correct in its procedural ruling." [Id.](#)

For the reasons set forth in the memorandum and order that was entered on August 6, 2013 (filing [157](#)), denying the defendant's § 2255 motion, the court

concludes that the defendant has not made a substantial showing of the denial of a constitutional right as required by [28 U.S.C. § 2253\(c\)](#). Therefore, a certificate of appealability will not be issued.

The defendant was determined to be financially unable to obtain an adequate defense in her criminal case, and an attorney was appointed to represent her at trial. Because the appeal appears to be taken in good faith, even though a certificate of appealability will not be issued, the defendant may proceed in forma pauperis on appeal pursuant to [Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 24\(a\)\(3\)](#).

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. A certificate of appealability will not issue in this case.
2. In response to the clerk's memo (filing [160](#)), the defendant may proceed in forma pauperis on appeal.
3. The clerk of the court shall transmit a copy of this memorandum and order to the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit.

DATED this 23rd day of August, 2013.

BY THE COURT:

Richard G. Kopf
Senior United States District Judge

*This opinion may contain hyperlinks to other documents or Web sites. The U.S. District Court for the District of Nebraska does not endorse, recommend, approve, or guarantee any third parties or the services or products they provide on their Web sites. Likewise, the court has no agreements with any of these third parties or their Web sites. The court accepts no responsibility for the availability or functionality of any hyperlink. Thus, the fact that a hyperlink ceases to work or directs the user to some other site does not affect the opinion of the court.